

GOVERNMENT OF ANDHRA PRADESH

ABSTRACT

EFS&T Department - Diversion of 3.26 ha. of forest land (2.67 ha. of forest land in Matlatippa RF and 0.59 ha Mangrove Forest land) for laying of 20" pipeline (about 31 Kms) from offshore platform through mouth of the Gouthami River to ONGC onshore plant at East Godavari District in favour of M/s. ONGC, Kakinada – Final (stage-II) approval – Accorded.

ENVIRONEMNT, FORESTS, SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY (Section-II) DEPARTMENT

G.O.Ms.No.14

Dated.07.04.2022

Read the following:-

- 1) From the PCCF & HoFF, Lr.Rc.No.EFS02-15027/4/2019/FCA SEC-PCCF/FCA-3, dt.25.05.2021.
- 2) State Govt.Letter No.982/Section.II/2021, EFS&T(Sec.II) Dept., dt.24.06.2021.
- 3) From the GoI, MoEF&CC, IRO, Vijayawada, Lr.F.No.4-APB124/2021-VIJ/43, dt.13.07.2021.
- 4) From the PCCF & HoFF, Lr.Rc.No.EFS02-15027/4/2019/FCA SEC-PCCF/FCA-3, dt.11.09.2021.
- 5) State Govt.Lr.No.982/Sec.II/2021/(1420618), EFS&T(Sec.II) Dept., dt.13.09.2021.
- 6) From the GoI, MoEF& CC, IRO, Vijayawada, Lr.No.4-APB124/2021-VIJ/68, dt.17.09.2021.
- 7) From the PCCF & HoFF, Lr.Rc.No.EFS02-15027/4/2019/FCA SEC-PCCF/FCA-3, dt.03.01.2022.
- 8) State Govt.Lr.No.982/Sec.II/2021/(1420618), EFS&T(Sec.II) Dept., dt.07.01.2022.
- 9) From the GoI, MoEF&CC, IRO, Vijayawada, Lr.No.4-APB124/2021-VIJ/61, dt.10.02.2022.

ORDER:

In the letter first read above, the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & Head of Forest Force, Andhra Pradesh, has submitted a proposal under Section 2 of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, for diversion of 3.26 ha. of forest land (2.67 ha. of forest land in Matlatippa RF and 0.59 ha Mangrove Forest land) for laying of 20" pipeline (about 31 Kms) from offshore platform through mouth of the Gouthami River to ONGC onshore plant at East Godavari District in favour of M/s. ONGC, Kakinada, and requested to take necessary action for onward submission of proposals to Government of India, Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change, Integrated Regional Office, Vijayawada to accord forest clearance under Section-2 of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980.

2. In the letter 2nd read above, the proposal of the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & Head of Forest Force was sent to Government of India, Ministry of Environment & Forests, for their approval under Section-2 of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980.

3. In the letter 6th read above, the Government of India, Ministry of Environment & Forests, Integrated Regional Office, Vijayawada, have accorded in-principle (Stage-I) approval under Section-2 of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, for the proposal, subject to compliance of certain conditions stipulated therein. Accordingly, in the letter 8th read above, State Government furnished compliance report on the Stage-I conditions stipulated by the Government of India, Ministry of Environment & Forests, and requested to accord Final (Stage-II) approval for the proposal.

4. In the letter 9th read above, the Government of India, Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change, Integrated Regional Office, Vijayawada, have accorded (Stage-II) approval under Section-2 of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, for diversion of 3.26 ha. of forest land (2.67 ha. of forest land in Matlatippa RF and 0.59 ha Mangrove Forest land) for laying of 20" pipeline (about 31 Kms) from offshore platform through mouth of the Gouthami River to ONGC onshore plant at East Godavari District in favour of M/s. ONGC, Kakinada, subject to certain conditions stipulated therein.

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5. After careful examination of the proposal, the Government hereby accord permission to the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & Head of Forest Force, Andhra Pradesh, for diversion of 3.26 ha. of forest land (2.67 ha. of forest land in Matlatippa RF and 0.59 ha Mangrove Forest land) for laying of 20" pipeline (about 31 Kms) from offshore platform through mouth of the Gouthami River to ONGC onshore plant at East Godavari District in favour of M/s. ONGC, Kakinada, subject to the following conditions:-

- i. Legal status of the diverted forest land shall remain unchanged;
- ii. No tree felling shall be carried out in the diverted forest area.
- iii. The State Forest Department shall carry out compensatory afforestation over an extent of 7.84 Ha. identified in Compt No.449, Murari RF, Kakinada Range, from the amount which has already been realized from the user agency.
- iv. Identified degraded forest area for CA purpose and CA scheme shall not be changed without prior approval of the Central Government.
- v. Additional amount of Net Present Value (NPV) of the diverted forest land if any, becoming due after revision of the same by the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India in future, shall be charged by the State Government from the User Agency;
- vi. The muck generated in the earth cutting if any, will be disposed off at designated dumping sites and in no case the muck/debris will be disposed off in the forest areas;
- vii. The user agency shall display signage/ Caution boards at appropriate places for safety and awareness.
- viii. The user agency shall monitor the pipeline at regular interval to ensure safety and to avoid any accident. The user agency shall submit such monitoring reports to the DFO concerned.
- ix. The user agency/ State Forest Department shall implement recommendation made in the Ecology and Bio-diversity study report & wildlife conservation plan (especially for Fishing Cats and Otters) which is duly approved by the PCCF (WL) & CWLW, Andhra Pradesh at project cost.
- x. The State Government / user agency shall comply with all conditions stipulated in the CRZ clearance.
- xi. The forest land proposed for diversion shall under no circumstances be transferred or sublet to any other agency, department or person without prior approval of the Central Government;
- xii. The layout plan of the proposal shall not be changed without the prior approval of the Central Government;
- xiii. Minimal disturbance should be ensured by creating labour camps outside the forest area as far as possible and it will be the responsibility of the user agency to ensure that the labourers & staff engaged in execution of work do not destruct nearby forest flora & fauna;
- xiv. The total forest area to be utilized for the project shall not exceed 3.26 ha and the forest area diverted shall not be used for any purpose other than those shown in the diversion proposal;

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- xv. User Agency and the State Government shall ensure compliance to provisions of the all Acts, Rules, Regulations and Guidelines, for the time being in force, as applicable to the project;
- xvi. Any other conditions that the Central Government or Regional Officer, Integrated Regional Office, Vijayawada may impose from time to time in the interest of afforestation, conservation and management of flora and fauna in the area, shall be complied by the user agency;
- xvii. In the event of failure to comply with any of the above conditions the user agency is liable for penal action as provisions of rules / guidelines made under FCA, 1980.
6. The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & Head of Forest Force, Andhra Pradesh, shall take further necessary action in the matter accordingly.

(BY ORDER AND IN THE NAME OF THE GOVERNOR OF ANDHRA PRADESH)
NEERABH KUMAR PRASAD
SPECIAL CHIEF SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT

To
✓ The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & Head of Forest Force,
Andhra Pradesh, Guntur.

Copy to:

The Inspector General of Forests (Central)
Government of India,
Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change
Integrated Regional Office, Vijayawada,
Green House Complex, Gopal Reddy Road,
Vijayawada-520010

M/s. ONGC, Corporate HSE, 8th Floor Core-IV,
SCOPE Minar, Delhi-110092 (sharma_js@ongc.co.in)
SF/SC (Computer No.1617302)

// FORWARDED:: BY ORDER //

N. Jagadeeswari
SECTION OFFICER